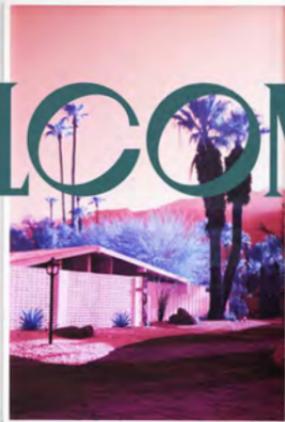


SPECIAL ISSUE

KITCHENS
bathrooms &

belle

A VERDANT BEACHSIDE GARDEN



WELCOME



BACK

A reflection of you
FOCUS ON
MIRRORS

AUDACIOUS
INTERIORS
FROM
THOMAS
HAMEL TO
TAMSI
JOHNSON

COLOUR!

BLACK MAGIC

Minimalist and monumental, every space in this seismic home was designed to have a green outdoor aspect.

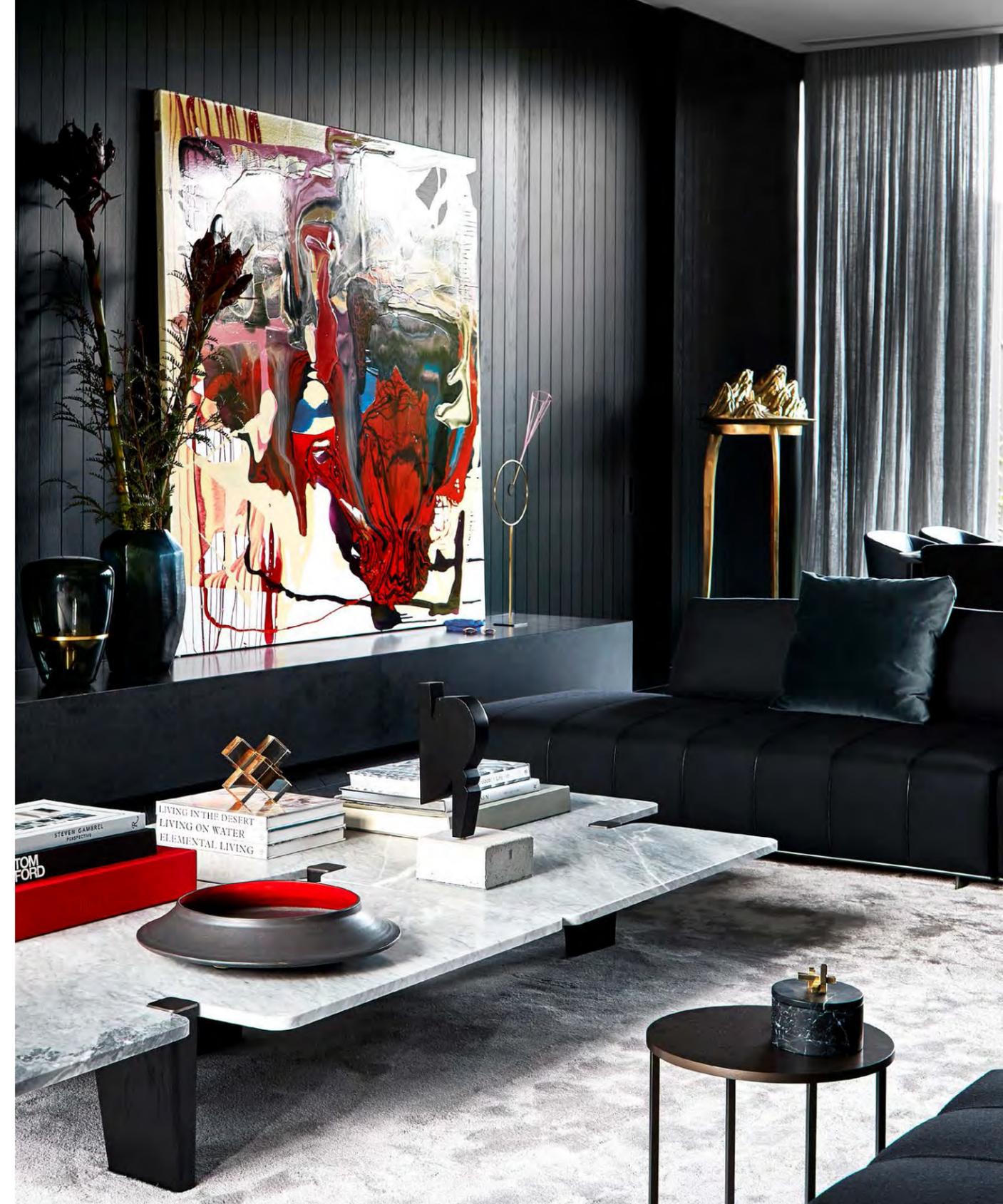
These pages, from left The front door runs the full width of the entry and is made from an oak shiplap timber with a charcoal stain. The facade features off-form concrete and Vetropieno glass blocks from Glass Block Constructions. The formal living room is adjacent to the formal dining room at the front of the house off the gallery. Minotti 'Leslie' armchair sourced in London. *Elementary Abacus* standing sculpture by Marta Figueiredo. In the background can be seen two Minotti Freeman 'Tailor' sofas with a 'Ritter' coffee table and 'Dibbets' rug, all sourced from Minotti in London and available locally through De De Ce.

Words **CARLI PHILIPS**
Photography **SHANNON McGRATH**
Styling & art curation **SWEE LIM**





This page In the study, a Dale Frank artwork and a tall sculpture by Peter Cole rest on the console. 'Hamilton Islands' corner sofa, 'Bresson' coffee table and 'Dibbets' rug, all Minotti. On the coffee table, *Elephante* sculpture by Ben Sheers from Otomys. Red and black Henge 'H' vase from Home Italia. In a corner of the adjoining dining area, *Table Mountain* artwork by Richard Stringer from Fletcher Arts. Opposite page, from top Wall-to-ceiling shelving in the study holds favourite books and treasured objects. 'Hamilton Islands' corner sofa, 'Leslie' bergère armchair, 'Leslie' ottoman, 'Bresson' coffee table, 'Leslie' dining little armchairs, 'Dibbets' rug, all Minotti sourced in London. Throw on sofa is from Home Italia. On coffee table, *Salvation no. 4* sculpture by Guan Wei from Arc One Gallery, *Gold Bee* by Richard Stringer from Fletcher Arts and a marble trapezoid sculpture by Kelly Wearstler. Flos 'Taccia' lamp on console. *The Queen is Dead* by Richard Stringer from Fletcher Arts. Next to *Halo* standing artwork by Richard Stringer from Fletcher Arts (at the rear) the custom desk holds a Nahoor 'Aireen' brushed-brass table lamp and *Radial* sculpture by Ben Sheers from Otomys. Arper 'Catifa Sensit' chair from Stylecraft. Jack positioned huge planters and spilling foliage so that every window in the house would enjoy a glimpse of greenery.

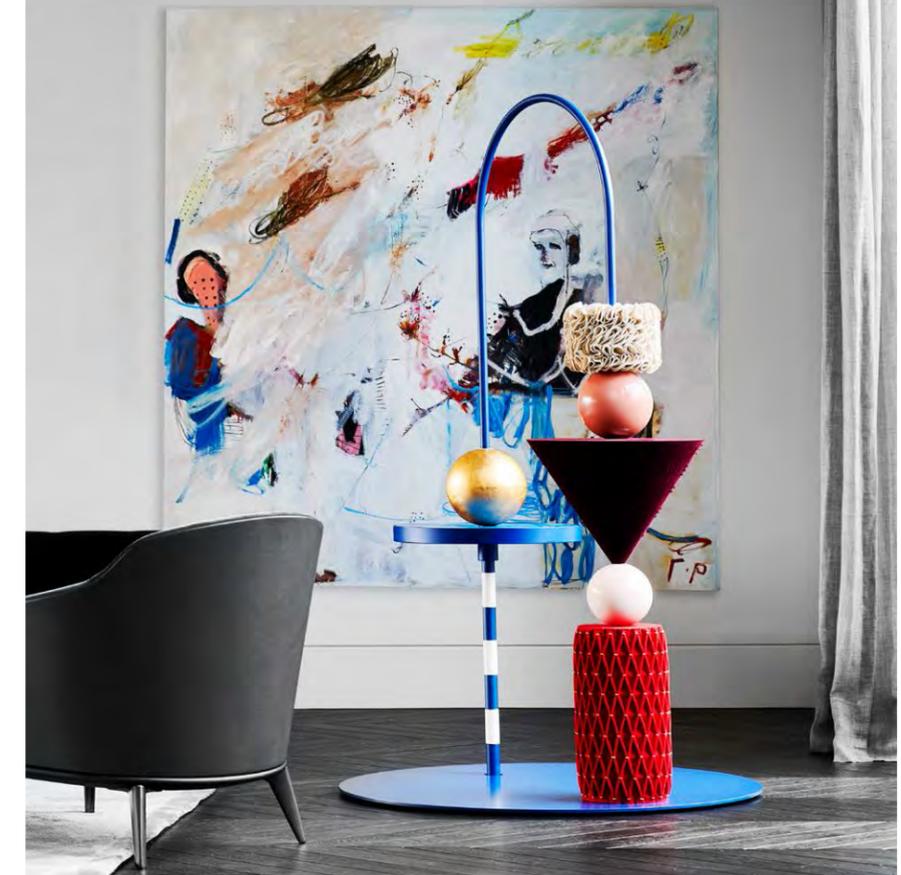


Beyond the imposing facade of this home in an exclusive Melbourne suburb lies a moody monolith of epic proportions. Dramatic from the moment of entry with a full-width 2.85-metre pivoting front door that reaches nearly 3.5 metres high, it's a house rich with deep, dark accents: black Japan-stained American oak, charred timber, honed granite and Nero Marquina slabs. The monochrome palette is a trademark for architects ADDARC, which designed the home for Jack Merlo, who runs a landscape architecture business, his husband Ricardo and their young twins. The couple approached ADDARC directors Tamara Dunkley and Rohan Appel with somewhat of a strategic brief: to design a property suited to their current lifestyle but also one planned with foresight for the possibility of on-selling later.

"The brief placed emphasis on a strong synergy between architecture, interior and landscape with a functional demand for spaces suitable for large formal gatherings yet still appropriate for more intimate and relaxed family time," says Tamara. For now, the couple wanted a home they could enjoy with their children and extended family visiting from overseas. For the future, they wanted it to have broad market appeal. They only had one major architectural directive – street presence.

"The property is at the end of a cul-de-sac and the neighbouring houses are very mixed. Part of our vision was about making sure it was legible and identifiable within the streetscape," says Rohan. For passers-by, glass bricks make for an intriguing smokescreen. "As a material they are translucent enough to provide just the right amount of privacy. From the road, all you can see is a silhouette of what's happening behind. There's an ephemeral quality and at night, when it's illuminated, it projects a soft glow." >

These pages, clockwise from left Swathes of snowy Statuario marble from Signorino clad the kitchen island, benchtop and splashback, contrasting with the band of dark-stained joinery in American oak veneer. On the island, vessel by Simone Karris from Pépité, brass salt and pepper mills, and 'Salone' tray by Kelly Wearstler. On the rear benchtop, *Changeling* sculpture by Mark Howson from Fletcher Arts and Tom Dixon pestle and mortar. In the formal living room, Minotti 'Leslie' armchair, *Elementary Abacus* standing sculpture by Marta Figueiredo and painting by George Raftopoulos. Oak parquetetry flooring in charcoal stain from Le Parqueteur. In the formal dining area, Minotti 'Creed' chairs surround a custom table topped in Arabescato Grigio marble from Signorino. Venicem 'Mondrian' pendant light in brass and Murano glass. Peacocks arrangement by Victoria Whitelaw. View to outdoors from the gallery with a white sculpture on a plinth by Bruce Armstrong. Custom chandelier of pendant lights by Vibia. The floor is a black granite slab from Signorino. Sculpture outside by Guan Wei.



« The effect of shadow play was core to the design concept outside with the obfuscation of the glass bricks, and inside with the dance of light and shade from the celestial-like Vibia pendants positioned in a constellation spanning the double-height entrance gallery. It's what Rohan refers to as the "axial heart of the house" with the formal dining and living on the right, and the library, kitchen, family room, meals and practical amenities to the left. Seating for 24 in the formal entertaining zone with concealed bar called for grand gestures and ultra-luxe materiality, such as the custom stone table framed by velvet Minotti 'Creed' dining chairs and a contemporary Venicem 'Mondrian' glass chandelier. Art consultant Swee Lim of Swee Design was enlisted to curate the art, sculpture and objects. "The unique nature of the artworks against the scale of the architecture sets this project apart," says ADDARC.

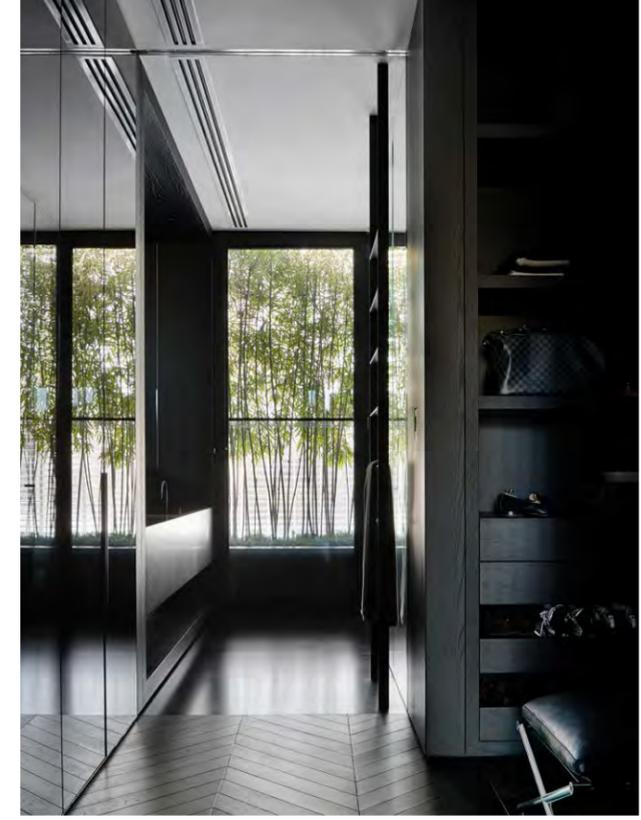
The vast proportions continue into the south wing where there are shared spaces for everyday living. At the very rear, the home unfolds onto an alfresco pavilion with a green-carpeted lawn and lap pool. With the outdoors matching the house for size, it was primed for the landscaping scheme that included seasonal flora, clipped topiary and trees varying in scale. "The contemporary

architecture with large expanses of glass provides a blurred line between inside and out, with the garden forming a backdrop to every room," says Jack. Even in the basement, a cascading wall of ivy is visible from above, contrasting with the black marble and dark materiality. Throughout, Jack made way for intimate moments of foliage: an eastern ornamental garden with planting adjacent to the entrance, an oversized cylindrical planter with a Japanese maple and linear stepping stones. "The landscape was carefully considered to complement the clean lines of the architecture while providing a degree of lushness and layering."

The upstairs floor is divided into four bedrooms – all with walk-in wardrobes and ensuites – on one side of the hall, and a generous master suite opposite. Lined with upholstered leather walls and a stone fireplace, it's accessorised with Nahoor lamps and Minotti furniture. The brief requested separate but side-by-side robes, each leading to bathrooms with granite floors and views to inset elevated planters. Solid-glass bricks replace conventional glazing, creating a "translucent veil upon which to glimpse the tranquil passing of the day, imbuing a surreal lustre and humility to the surrounds," says Tamara. ■ addarc.com.au; jackmerlo.com; sweedesign.com.au



These pages, from left Dramatic book-matched Nero Marquina slabs define the fireplace in the master bedroom, with a shelf over the Minotti 'Tatlin Soft' bed in the same marble set into a wall upholstered in quilted leather. Throw from Poliform. 'Freeman' bench, 'Luggage' armchair, 'Catlin' coffee table and Joy 'Jut Out' side table, all Minotti sourced in London. Nahoor 'Mahari' brushed-brass floor lamp and bedside lamps. 'Surface' mirror sculpture by Elliot Rich from Sophie Gannon Gallery. Chess set on table by Peter Cole from Fletcher Arts. One of Jack and Ricardo's requirements was for side-by-side but completely separate walk-in robes and bathrooms, each of which features charcoal-stained oak parquetry underfoot and a view to exterior elevated planters with clumping bamboo. Minotti 'Self' stool and dark joinery in the walk-in wardrobe. The window in the master ensuite offers views out to greenery. Astra Walker 'Icon' tapware.



This page The family room at the rear of the house features 'Yang' sofa and ottoman, 'Winston' armchair, 'Calder' and 'Ritter' coffee tables and 'Dibbets' rug, all Minotti sourced in London. 'Equatore' floor lamp by FontanaArte. Ascensi artwork by Richard Blackwell from Flinders Lane Gallery near the door. On hearth, Passage 7 sculpture by Morgan Shimeld from Otomys. On coffee table, sculptures by Peter Cole and Queen Bee by Richard Stringer, both from Fletcher Arts. Opposite page View from the swimming pool into rear family living. Atelier Vierkant pots from Cosh Living.



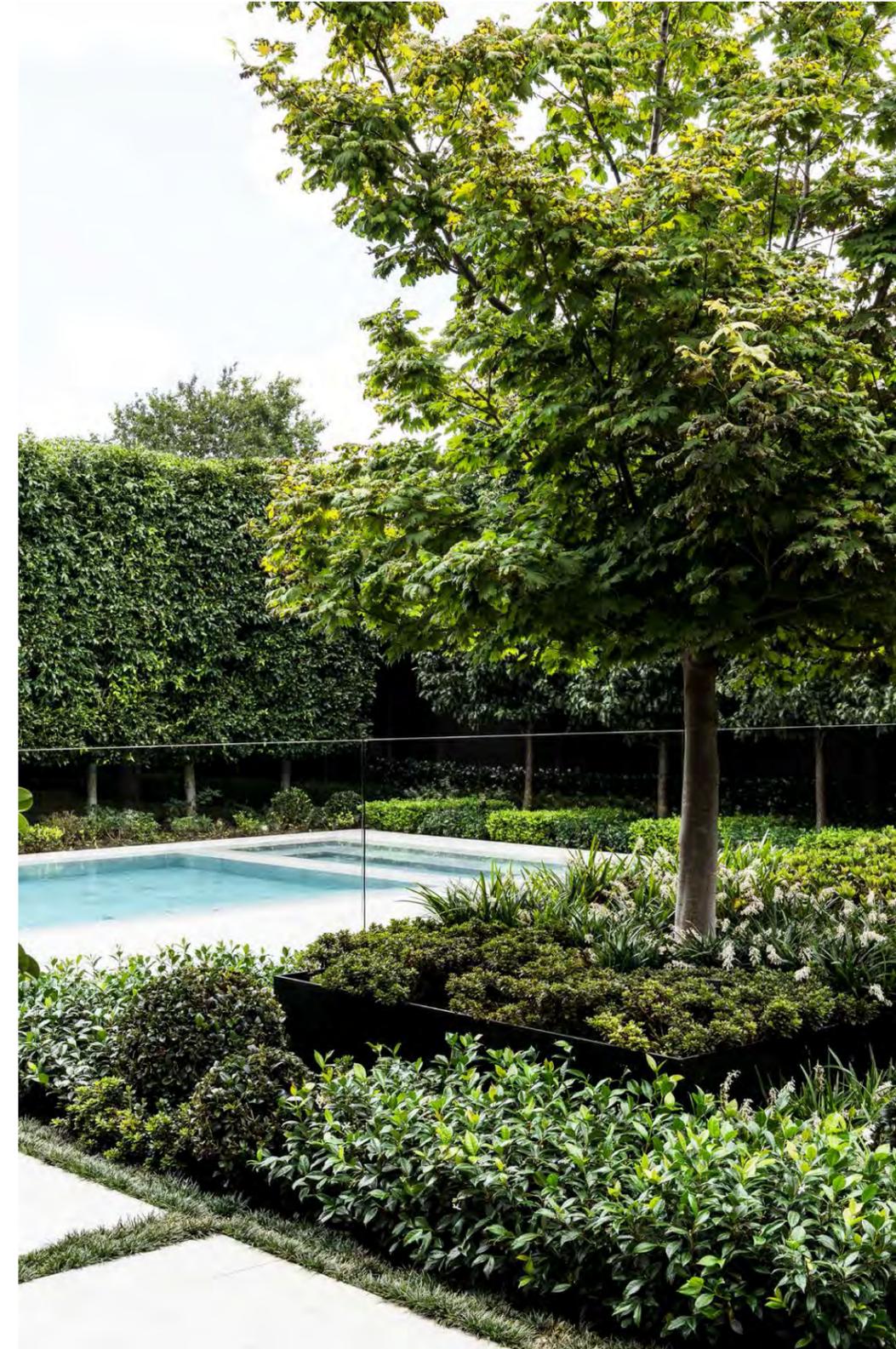
"THERE'S AN EPHEMERAL QUALITY AND AT NIGHT, WHEN IT'S ILLUMINATED, IT PROJECTS A SOFT GLOW."

SPEED READ

» The brief for this property, located at the end of a cul-de-sac, called for architects ADDARC to design and build a residence that would have a strong, architecturally identifiable presence within the streetscape. » Featuring on the facade, glass bricks were chosen for their ephemeral quality, obscuring movement to create soft silhouettes. » A full-width pivoting front door opens into the gallery with a series of dramatic Vibia pendant lights. » Inside, the proportions are immense with a moody palette. » The formal living and dining rooms connect on the northern wing, opening directly onto the manicured lawn. » The southern wing is reserved for everyday use. » From every room of the house there is either an actual or visual connection to nature.



POOL IMAGE BY TIMOTHY KAYE



These pages, from left Jack designed a steel arbour of timber battens with vines for the exterior. Looking into the family living area off which sits an outdoor setting of Roda 'Spinnaker' extendable table and 'Harp' armchairs. The garden and swimming pool match the proportions of the house.